

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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25X1A

COUNTRY Indochina

SUBJECT Disposition of Viet Minh Troops in Tonkin

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS PREVIOUSLY
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1. The Commander-in-Chief of the current Viet Minh operations in Tonkin, planned at the staff conference of the Viet Minh military command on 15 March 1951*, is Tran Duc Kien, former Chief of Staff of Vo Nguyen Giap's military cabinet. Kien's Chief of Staff is Ha Ke Tan. His counsellors include Hoang Van Thai, Chief of Staff of the Viet Minh Army, a Chinese Communist committee of military studies in Viet Nam under Trung Van Hung, and European artillery and anti-aircraft specialists.
2. Following is the current disposition of Viet Minh forces in Tonkin:

312 Brigade

- a) The 230 Battalion and another unidentified battalion of the 209 Regiment moved from Binh Ca (Tuyen Quang) (105-13, 21-46) to Yen The (Bac Giang) (aka Tinh dao, 106-03, 21-25) on 21 March 1951. Other units of the 209 Regiment remained at Phu Tho.
- b) The 141 and 165 Regiments remain in the vicinity of Phu Tho.

303 Brigade

- a) The 102 Regiment left Phu Minh (Phu Tho) for Dai Tu (Thai Nguyen) in the vicinity of Cho Moi (105-47, 21-53) on 15 March 1951. On 13 March the 102 Regiment was in Cao Thuong (Bac Giang, approximately 106-30, 21-30). On 19 March, the artillery companies, the 69 and 79 Battalions, and the assault company of the 54 Battalion joined the 102 Regiment at Bac Giang.
- b) On 3 March 1951 the 21 and 23 Battalions of the 33 Regiment moved from Lien Son (Vinh Yen) to Cho Chu (Thai Nguyen) (105-39, 21-54). The 322 Battalion of the 33 Regiment moved from Cho Moi to Phu Binh

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(Bac Giang) via Thai Nguyen and arrived at Duc Thang (Bac Giang) (105-58, 21-21) on 20 March.

- c) The 36 Regiment moved from Tri Cu (Bac Giang) (106-00, 21-23) to Mai Xu (Bac Giang) on 20 March.

316 Brigade

Currently in the Bac Giang-Bac Ninh area, scattered between Yen The, Huu Lung, Mai Xu, Luc Nam, and Chu.

304 Brigade

- a) The 9 and 66 Regiments have completed a mission of transporting arms from the China-Indochina frontier. The 9 Regiment has been at Tong Chua, the arms stockpile area east northeast of the city of Bac Kan, since 14 March. The 66 Regiment is now at Hop Thanh, in the vicinity of Cho Moi (Thai Nguyen) and "Kilometer 31".
- b) The 12 and 48 Regiments are remaining in Hoa Binh Province near Son Tay, in preparation for the "Le Hong Phong, Phase 3" attack on Son Tay*.

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